

Message Text

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15
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
----- 065666
R 080935Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6541
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 7622

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MCAP, EAID, LA
SUBJECT: CONTINUATION OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE
IN POST-PGNU PERIOD

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 7405
(B) STATE 209975
(C) VIENTIANE 7252

1. IN RESPONSE TO MY LETTER OF OCTOBER 27, CONCERNING
CONTINUATION OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN THE PERIOD
FOLLOWING FORMATION OF THE NEW PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU), SOUVANNA REPLIED NOVEMBER 8.
FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION:

2. BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER: "I HAVE THE HONOR TO
ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 27, 1973,
CONCERNING THE VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION OF THE CONTINUA-
TION OF MILITARY AID TO LAOS.

3. "AS I TOLD MR. STEARNS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE, LAST OCTOBER 17, THIS MILITARY ASSISTANCE RE-
MAINS INDISPENSABLE AT THIS TIME. THE ACCORD OF FEBRUARY
21 FOR THE RESTORATION OF PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIA-
TION IN LAOS, AND THE PROTOCOL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 1973,
ARE CERTAINLY IMPORTANT JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL DOCUMENTS,
BUT, IN VIEW OF THE EXISTING REALITIES, IT IS IMPORTANT
SECRET

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THAT LASO CONTINUES TO BE VERY VIGILANT AND REMAINS ON
ITS GUARD. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE OTHER INDO-
CHINESE STATES WHICH SURROUND OUR COUNTRY HAS IN NO WAY
BEEN CLARIFIED AND THE CONFLICT CONTINUES IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

4. "IN ANY CASE, WHILE CONTINUING OUR UNTIRING EFFORTS TO SETTLE THE LAO QUESTION, THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT IS INTENT UPON NOT BEING DEPRIVED OF ITS MEANS TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE KINGDOM. ARTICLE VI OF THE 1962 AGREEMENT ON THE NEUTRALITY OF LAOS AUTHORIZES THE INTRODUCTION INTO LAOS OF WAR MATERIALS FOR THE NATIONAL DEFENSE. IT IS MOREOVER, IN CONFORMITY WITH THIS ARTICLE, THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1962, WE HAD REQUESTED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

5. "THIS BEING THE CASE, I SHOULD LIKE TO ASK YOUR EXCELLENCY TO PLEASE INFORM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT OUR POSITION IN REGARD TO THIS PROBLEM OF NATIONAL DEFENSE HAS NOT CHANGED AND THAT THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE ASSISTANCE WHICH HAS PERMITTED IT, UP UNTIL THE PRESENT TIME, TO RESIST INVASION AND SUBVERSION.

6. "IN THANKING YOUR EXCELLENCY VERY SINCERELY FOR HIS KIND ASSISTANCE IN REGARD TO THIS MATTER, I ASK HIM ALSO TO PLEASE RECEIVE THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGH REGARD. (SIGNED) PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA (CHAO KROMMANA)" END OF TEXT OF LETTER.

7. WE BELIEVE THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER WILL BE USEFUL IN OUR DEALING WITH THE CONGRESS. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER, THAT HE DOES NOT WISH TO MAKE IT PUBLIC AT THIS TIME.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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